



## Petroleum Remediation Grants Frequently Asked Questions



### **Q: What sites and applicants are eligible for Petroleum Remediation Grant (PRG) funding?**

A: Eligibility criteria for PRG funding include the following:

- Site meets definition of brownfield (IC 13-11-2-19.3);
- Site contaminated by (or strongly suspected to be contaminated by) a petroleum product;
- Applicant and no entity involved in the project caused or contributed to the contamination at the site are involved in site redevelopment;
- Site not part of a pending or current state or federal enforcement action;
- Site not eligible to be addressed using the Excess Liability Trust Fund; and
- Site is owned by applicant or co-applicant or will be acquired by applicant or co-applicant.

### **Q: A site in my community has received PRG funding in the past and more work is needed in order for a No Further Action Letter to be issued. How can my community receive additional funding to close a site?**

A: In order to facilitate redevelopment on these sites (that may be ready to go before the regional site lists are developed and ranked), our Program has determined that Program staff will have the discretion to allow the consultant that conducted the previously-funded PRG assessment/remediation activities to continue with the site through closure. There are only a handful of sites that fit into this category, and it is important to note that any additional PRG funds that may be allocated to finish these previously-funded projects will not be part of the \$750,000 set aside for each region. All \$750,000 is earmarked for NEW projects (sites that have received previous assessment grant funding will be considered "new" in addition to new sites that are not in our Program) and only the consultant qualified in a region will work on new PRG sites in that region.

### **Q: Is it possible for a site that has immediate redevelopment needs to receive funding prior to the development, ranking, and IFA approval of the regional list for the region in which the site is located?**

A: Yes, subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant must provide sufficient justification of imminent need to the Program, for example, by providing a letter from the developer or end user certifying their intentions regarding near term reuse of the property as well as anticipated funding, job creation, etc.
- The site will be addressed by the consultant assigned to the region in which the site is located.
- It will be treated as "just-in-time" financing, which will require a \$1:\$1 match by the applicant of the grant funds provided by the Program.
- Funding for these sites will be separate from the \$750,000 regional cap.

### **Q: How will the Program handle a site that comes to the attention of the consultant or the Program after the first regional list of sites has been submitted and ranked?**

A: The Program plans to accept sites on a rolling basis after the initial ranking of sites on a regional list and will score a site as if it had been included on the list in the first instance. The site will then be dropped into the list at the appropriate spot based on its score and sites on the list will shift accordingly. By handling sites in this fashion, a site that is later-discovered, but nonetheless a priority, should not be disadvantaged. Sites that are added to the regional list after the initial inventory will be considered for funding as part of the \$750,000 regional cap.



## Petroleum Remediation Grants Frequently Asked Questions



**Q: Will sites that are included on a regional list be confidential? Will the fact that a site is known to be contaminated be communicated to an IDEM regulatory program?**

A: Any sites placed on a list become public record when submitted to our Program and therefore our Program cannot guarantee confidentiality with respect to the fact that the site is on a list or any additional information about site conditions that are provided. We are unable to answer the question about whether we will report contamination to an IDEM program in the course of ranking the sites listed within a region; this will be addressed on a site-specific basis, but will be unlikely to lead to official referral unless the conditions at the site pose an imminent threat to human health or the environment. If we feel the need to inform IDEM, we would work with the community, property owner and IDEM to find a satisfactory solution.

If a property owner is truly concerned about keeping site conditions and his/her interest in having IDEM technical staff opine on contamination on a property, we might suggest that person consider participating in IDEM's Voluntary Remediation Program (IC 13-25-5) which keeps information confidential until a Voluntary Remediation Agreement has been executed, at which point an enforcement bar is effective.

**Q: How will sites that are listed on each regional list be ranked? How many sites will receive funding?**

A: Ranking criteria for PRG funding include the following:

- Redevelopment plans (jobs created, investment planned, etc.);
- Timeline for redevelopment;
- Community support;
- Geographic distribution/regional representation; and
- Amount and quality of previous environmental work completed (not required).

The number of sites in each region that will receive funding is not yet known and will be determined based on a number of factors, including those listed above. In addition, twenty-five percent of each regional allotment will initially be set aside to fund PRG work in small communities (populations less than 10,000).

**Q: Can PRG funding be used for assessment activities?**

A: Yes. In fact, a completed assessment is no longer a pre-requisite for PRG funding. Eligible grant activities now include Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments and remediation activities. Even though assessment does not need to be completed for PRG funding eligibility, petroleum contamination at the site must either be confirmed or strongly suspected through available historic information, Sanborn maps, etc. In instances where petroleum contamination is possible but not confirmed nor strongly suspected, confirmation is required. This could be as simple as conducting a Phase I, a geophysical survey and/or a TPH test.

Eligible remediation activities include Aboveground/Underground Storage Tank (AST/UST) and associated piping and equipment removal and disposal, and soil and groundwater remediation activities. In order for PRG funding to be used for remediation, site-specific environmental data (e.g., Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment reports) must be available. Data should be of sufficient quality and quantity to support planned remedial activities. Furthermore, Phase I reports submitted to support a request for funding for remediation must be compliant with the federal All Appropriate Inquiry rule and/or ASTM E1527-05.



## Petroleum Remediation Grants Frequently Asked Questions



The Program may set aside a percentage of each regional allotment to be used for assessment activities only. Further information on this potential set-aside will be forthcoming and will be disseminated by each regional consultant.

**Q: If my site is chosen for funding, how long will the process take? What are the timelines for this initiative?**

A: The Program has set some general goals for completing the work under this initiative. The timeline is as follows:

- **April 15, 2007:** Sites identified, regional inventory list submitted to Program for review.
- **June 2007:** First sites to receive funding chosen, presented to IFA Board for approval at June meeting.
- **August 2007:** Contracting (site-specific) with communities and regional consultants completed.
- **September 2007:** Work scopes, cost estimates submitted by regional consultant to Program project managers for review.
- **October 2007:** Work scopes, cost estimates approved by project managers.
- **July 2008:** Work completed on awarded sites, closure reports submitted to Program project managers for review.